

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 SP-02 EUR-08 SSO-00 NSC-05

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TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 236414

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SREF, UNRWA, JO, US, XF

SUBJECT: UNRWA FINANCES

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REF: A)AMMAN 6643; B)USUN 4690; C)BEIRUT 12381

1. WITH RESPECT TO REF A, YOU SHOULD REPLY TO RIFAI AS
FOLLOWS:

A. USG HAS SAID REPEATEDLY, AND MOST RECENTLY IN ADCOM
MEETING, THAT WE SUPPORT RENNIE AND, TO EXTENT POSSIBLE,
HIS PLANS TO MAINTAIN UNRWA'S FINANCIAL
VIABILITY.

B. IN 1975, USG HAS MADE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNRWA
TOTALING \$16 MILLION IN ADDITION TO OUR REGULAR CONTRIBU-
TION OF \$23.2 MILLION. THERE IS NO REPEAT NO POSSIBILITY
OF ANY FURTHER U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS IN 1975. FYI UNRWA HAS
MADE IT CLEAR TO US THAT WE HAVE DONE OUR SHARE IN 1975 AND
THAT IT LOOKS TO THE REST OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY,
PARTICULARLY THE ARAB STATES IN THE GULF, FOR SUFFICIENT
CONTRIBUTIONS TO REDUCE THE 1975 DEFICIT AT LEAST ENOUGH
TO MAKE ONLY MODERATE CUTS IN RATIONS NECESSARY. END FYI

C. USG IS FULLY AND SYMPATHETICALLY AWARE OF VERY SERIOUS
AND FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES FOR JORDAN OF UNRWA

REDUCTIONS. HOWEVER, WITH RECENT DEVELOPMENTS INVOLVING
PLO AND SAUDIS APPARENTLY HAVING REMOVED POLITICAL
OBSTACLES TO PROPORTIONATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNRWA BY ARAB
COUNTRIES, AND WITH CLEAR SHOWING THAT OTHER CONTRIBUTORS,
INCLUDING U.S., HAVE DONE THEIR SHARE, USG IS CONVINCED
THAT INITIATIVE TO MEET UNRWA'S 1975 DEFICIT RESTS WITH
ARABS. A FIRM JOINT DEMARCHE BY ARAB HOST GOVERNMENTS
TO GULF STATES, ESPECIALLY QATAR AND UAE, SHOULD PRODUCE
ADDITIONAL 1975 CONTRIBUTIONS UNRWA IS HOPING FOR. WE
RECOGNIZE AND APPRECIATE ALL OF RIFAI'S EFFORTS ON
UNRWA'S BEHALF, AND WE REGARD HIS APPROACH TO SYRIA AS A
USEFUL FURTHER STEP IN THIS DIRECTION.

D. JORDAN AND OTHER ARAB NATIONS, AND ALSO UNRWA ITSELF,
HAVE INCOMPARABLY GREATER ABILITY THAN USG TO INFLUENCE
GULF NATIONS TO INCREASE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS.

E. WE BELIEVE THAT AN APPROACH BY ARAB COUNTRIES TO THE
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EEC NATIONS WOULD BE BOTH MORE APPROPRIATE AND MORE LIKELY
TO SUCCEED THAN ONE BY THE USG.

F. RIFAI SHOULD CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT TRANSFERRING
UNRWA FINANCING TO UN REGULAR BUDGET IS TOTAL NON-STARTER.
U.S., EEC, COMMUNIST BLOC, AND LARGE NUMBER OTHER NATIONS
ARE OPPOSED TO TRANSFER OF ANY VOLUNTARY AGENCY FINANCING
TO UN ON GROUNDS THAT UN BUDGET IS FOR ADMINISTRATING UN

ITSELF AND EXECUTION OF CHARTER FUNCTIONS SUCH AS
PEACEKEEPING. FURTHERMORE, OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT
ARAB RESISTANCE TO SUCH TRANSFER IN PAST HAS BEEN NOT
REPEAT NOT BECAUSE OF ARAB RELUCTANCE TO CONTRIBUTE IN
THIS WAY, BUT BECAUSE OF CONNOTATION OF PERMANENCY SUCH
TRANSFER WOULD GIVE TO PALESTINE REFUGEE SITUATION.

G. GOJ MAY WISH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CURRENT MOVES IN
UN. WORKING GROUP ON UNRWA FINANCING HAS JUST SENT GA
PRESIDENT THORN SPECIAL EMERGENCY REPORT ON UNRWA
FINANCIAL CRISIS AND ASKED HIM TO MAKE PERSONAL STATEMENT
IN UNGA CALLING ATTENTION OF MEMBERS TO THE REPORT. GOJ
COULD FOLLOW UP ON THIS BY ASKING UNSYG WALDHEIM TO
ENSURE THAT ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS AND OTHER HIGH OFFICIALS
NOW AT UNGA ARE PERSONALLY AWARE OF THIS REPORT AND OF
THE NEED FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO PREVENT 1975 RE-
DUCTIONS IN UNRWA'S SERVICES. KISSINGER

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